

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
detecting attachment of a shared resource to a server;
querying if the shared resource ~~for~~ is associated with a share indicator stored at the server;
[and]
applying share allocation defined by the share indicator if the share indicator is present at
the server; and
if the shared resource is unassociated with the share indicator, automatically creating a share
file at the server that enables identification and automatically allocating sharing of the unassociated
shared resource.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein querying further comprises:
determining if a share directory is present on the shared resource; and
determining if a share file is in the share directory.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein queuing further comprises:
determining if a checksum file exists in the share directory; and
validating a checksum in the checksum file.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
creating a share indicator on the shared resource if the share indicator is not present.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein creating comprises:
creating a share directory on the shared resource; and
creating a share file in the share directory.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein creating further comprises:
creating a checksum file in the share directory; and

writing a checksum in the checksum file.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage media containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method comprising:

detecting attachment of a shared resource to a server;

querying if the shared resource ~~for~~ is associated with a share indicator stored at the server;

[and]

applying share allocation defined by the share indicator if the share indicator is present at the server; and

if the shared resource is unassociated with the shared indicator, automatically creating a share file at the server that enables identification and automatically allocating sharing of the unassociated shared resource.

8. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 7 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

determining if a share directory is present on the shared resource; and

determining if a share file is in the share directory.

9. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 8 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

determining if a checksum file exists in the share directory; and

validating a checksum in the checksum file.

10. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 7 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

creating a share indicator on the shared resource if the share indicator is not present.

11. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 10 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

creating a share directory on the shared resource; and creating a share file in the share directory.

12. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 11 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

creating a checksum file in the share directory; and
writing a checksum in the checksum file.

13. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a processor;

a non-volatile storage unit coupled to the processor, the non-volatile storage unit to store a descriptor table having an entry identifying share allocation for a known storage free device; and

a memory coupled to the processor to store a shared resource table to identify share allocation of shared devices coupled to the system, wherein if an unknown device is coupled to the system, the processor automatically creates a share file in the shared resource table that enables identification and automatically allocates sharing of the unknown device.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 13 further comprising:

a writable shared resource coupled to the processor, the writable shared resource containing a share directory.

15. (Original) The system of Claim 14 wherein the share directory contains:

a share file; and

a check sum file.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 13 wherein the processor ages out the entry if the known device is not present for a period of time.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 13 further comprising:
a read only ~~an unwritable~~ shared resource wherein the processor detects connection of the
read only ~~unwritable~~ shared resource and automatically adds an entry to the descriptor table
responsive to the connection.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 13 further comprising:
a writable shared resource wherein the processor detects connection of the writable shared
resource and automatically adds an entry to the shared resources table responsive to the connection.

19. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
maintaining a descriptor table on a server in a non-volatile memory for a plurality of known
devices;
detecting attachment of a device to the server;
determining if the device is one of the plurality of known devices; and
applying a share allocation from the descriptor table upon attachment if the device is one of
the plurality of known devices; and
if the device is determined to be an unknown device, automatically creating a share entry in
the descriptor table that enables identification and automatically allocating sharing of the unknown
device.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 19 further comprising:
aging out entries from the descriptor table after a corresponding known device has been
detached for a period of time.